



# THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

One Norway Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02115 (617) 262-2300

November 24, 1986

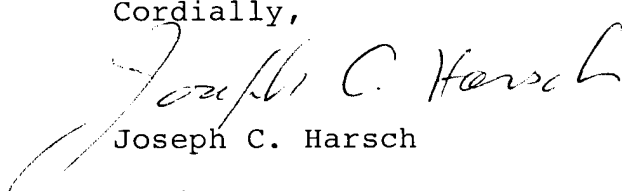
Mr. George W. Lauder  
Director, Public Affairs  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Mr. Lauder:

Thank you for your letter of October 21 to Mr. Foell  
about the C-123 affair which has been forwarded to me.  
It was misplaced and has just resurfaced.

We commend your loyalty to the official line. I do ask  
you to notice that I did not allege a CIA connection.  
I said of the official denial that "even if it were true  
it would not be plausible."

Cordially,

  
Joseph C. Harsch

JCH/er

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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21 October 1986

Mr. Earl W. Foell  
Editor in Chief  
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR  
One Norway Street  
Boston, MA 02115

Dear Mr. Foell:

In his article "What Do You Mean, a 'Private' Operation?" (CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, 16 October 1986), Joseph Harsch misleads the MONITOR's readers by falsely alleging that the cargo plane which recently crashed in Nicaragua was on a CIA operation. President Reagan stated that the CIA was not involved with the plane and its crew. The State Department, members of the intelligence oversight committees, and the Agency itself have made similar on-the-record denials.

The fact is that the CIA was prohibited by law from any connection with such a flight and the Agency has meticulously observed this prohibition, as our overseers in the Congress are well aware.

Since any Agency officer who violates U.S. law in the manner Mr. Harsch suggests can go to jail, I challenge him to present any evidence he may have concerning Agency malfeasance in this case to the Department of Justice for confirmation and possible prosecution. He also should send copies to the intelligence oversight committees.

I know that Mr. Harsch cannot prove what he is asserting and neither can anyone else. Mr. Harsch owes the employees of this Agency an apology for his outrageous defamation of them.

Sincerely,

*George W. Lauder*  
George W. Lauder  
Director, Public Affairs

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